

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 9, 2008. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claims 7 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 10 and 12 to 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,995,860 (Roztocil). Claims 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Roztocil and U.S. Patent No. 5,973,802 (Hirot). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns execution of distributed printing of a print document through monochromatic and color printing apparatuses. In an apparatus in accordance with the present invention, the distributed printing is executed in a first mode based on an analysis of the print document and the distributed printing is executed in a second mode based on print instruction information described by a job ticket.

Turning now to the claims, Claim 1 is directed to a print managing apparatus connected to a plurality of printing apparatuses including a monochromatic printing apparatus and a color printing apparatus via a communication medium. A read means is provided to read a job ticket which describes print instruction information for a print document to be printed, and a print control means is provided to control distribution printing. The print control means executes the distribution printing of the print document through the monochromatic printing apparatus and the color printing apparatus by analyzing the print document in a first mode, and executes that

distribution printing based on the print instruction information described by the job ticket in a second mode.

New Claim 17 is directed to a print system which includes the print managing apparatus of Claim 1 and a plurality of printing apparatuses including a monochromatic printing apparatus and a color printing apparatus connected via a communication medium.

Applicant submits that Roztocil fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claims 1 and 17. In particular, Roztocil fails to disclose or suggest reading a job ticket which describes print instruction information for a print document to be printed and controlling distribution printing, wherein the distribution printing of the print document is executed through the monochromatic printing apparatus and the color printing apparatus by analyzing the print document in a first mode, and executed based on the print instruction information described by the job ticket read by said read means in a second mode.

Roztocil discloses a GUI for controlling a production printer. Roztocil discloses a print workflow which inputs a document, executes various editing operations on the document, and outputs the document through various print devices via a print server. Roztocil further discloses that the print devices have different capabilities on color/monochromatic function, resolution or extra-large paper, and that pages of the document are automatically or manually assigned to one or ones of the print devices having suitable capabilities. Roztocil shows a job ticket which is used in association with the document.

Roztocil is relevant to the claimed invention only in executing print setting using a job ticket and in assigning pages of the document to the monochromatic and color print devices if the document contains monochromatic and color pages in a mixture. Roztocil fails to disclose or suggest executing the distribution printing of a print document through monochromatic and

color printing apparatuses by analyzing the print document in a first mode, and executing that distribution printing based on print instruction information described by a job ticket in a second mode.

Applicant has reviewed the cited portions of Hirota and submits that Hirota does not overcome the shortcomings of Roztocil. Specifically, Hirota merely discloses a digital color copier which executes full color image reproduction and monochromatic image reproduction. However, Hirota fails to disclose or suggest that which is missing from Roztocil, namely reading a job ticket which describes print instruction information for a print document to be printed and controlling distribution printing, wherein the distribution printing of the print document is executed through the monochromatic printing apparatus and the color printing apparatus by analyzing the print document in a first mode, and executed based on the print instruction information described by the job ticket read by said read means in a second mode.

In light of the deficiencies of Roztocil and Hirota, Applicant submits that Claims 1 and 17 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 6 and 25 are directed to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, corresponding to Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 6 and 25 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 21 and 26 are directed to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, corresponding to Claim 17. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 21 and 26 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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